

Amendments to the Claims

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A stent in the form of a thin-walled, cylindrical tube with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a multiplicity of interior circumferential sets of strut members and one end circumferential set of strut members at each of the two longitudinal ends of the stent;

each interior circumferential set of strut members including at least one connected strut member consisting of a long diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly attached to a connected curved section, each connected curved section being joined by means of a longitudinal connecting link to one connected curved section of an adjacent circumferential set of strut members and all connecting links that connect adjacent circumferential sets of strut members are connected at a connected curved section, each interior set of strut members also including at least one unconnected strut member consisting of a short diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly joined to an unconnected curved section.

39. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is straight.

40. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is an undulating, flexible, longitudinal connecting link.

41. (New) The stent of claim 40 wherein the place where each flexible longitudinal connecting link is joined to the interior set of strut members is near the connecting line where a connected curved section is joined to a diagonal section.

42. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein there are three longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

43. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein there are five longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

44. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein the total longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each end circumferential set of strut members is shorter than the longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each interior circumferential set of strut members.

45. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed in

stainless steel.

46. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed is tantalum.

47. (New) A stent in the form of a thin-walled, cylindrical tube with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a multiplicity of interior circumferential sets of strut members and one end circumferential set of strut members at each of the two longitudinal ends of the stent;

each interior circumferential set of strut members including at least one connected strut member consisting of a long diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly attached to a connected curved section, each connected curved section of an adjacent means of a longitudinal connecting link to one connected curved section of an adjacent circumferential set of strut members; each interior set of strut members also including at least one unconnected strut member consisting of a short diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly joined to an unconnected curved section; and

the stent being further characterized by having the length of each diagonal section being longer than the length of each short diagonal section and for each interior circumferential set of strut members, the number of connected curved sections being equal to the number of unconnected curved sections.

48. (New) A stent in the form of a thin-walled, cylindrical tube with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a multiplicity of interior circumferential sets of strut members and one end circumferential set of strut members at each of the two longitudinal ends of the stent;

each interior circumferential set of strut members including at least one connected strut member consisting of a long diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly attached to a connected curved section, each connected curved section being joined by means of a longitudinal connecting link to one connected curved section of an adjacent circumferential set of strut members and all connecting links that connect adjacent circumferential sets of strut members are connected at a connected curved section; each interior set of strut members also including at least one unconnected strut member consisting of a short diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly joined to an unconnected curved section; and

the stent being further characterized by having the length of each long diagonal section being longer than the length of each short diagonal section, so that the unconnected strut members have a decreased tendency for flaring outward as the stent is advanced through a curved vessel.

49. (New) The stent of claim 48 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is straight.

50. (New) The stent of claim 48 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is an undulating, flexible, longitudinal connecting link.

51. (New) The stent of claim 50 wherein the place where each flexible longitudinal connecting link is joined to the interior set of strut members is near the connecting line where a connected curved section is joined to a diagonal section.

52. (New) The stent of claim 48 wherein there are three longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

53. (New) The stent of claim 48 wherein there are five longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

54. (New) The stent of claim 48 wherein the total longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each end circumferential set of strut members is shorter than the longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each interior circumferential set of strut members.

55. (New) The stent of claim 48 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed is stainless steel.

56. (New) The stent of claim 48 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed is tantalum.
